

House File 273 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 273
BY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 76)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the term brain health.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 225C.1, subsection 1, Code 2023, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. The general assembly finds that services to persons
4 with mental illness, ~~an intellectual disability~~ disabilities,
5 ~~developmental disabilities, or brain injury~~ injuries, or
6 brain illnesses are provided in many parts of the state by
7 highly autonomous community-based service providers working
8 cooperatively with state and county officials. However, the
9 general assembly recognizes that heavy reliance on property tax
10 funding for mental health and intellectual disability services
11 has enabled many counties to exceed minimum state standards
12 for the services resulting in an uneven level of services
13 around the state. Consequently, greater efforts should be
14 made to ensure close coordination and continuity of care for
15 those persons receiving publicly supported disability services
16 in Iowa. It is the purpose of this chapter to continue and
17 to strengthen the services to persons with disabilities now
18 available in the state of Iowa, to make disability services
19 conveniently available to all persons in this state upon a
20 reasonably uniform financial basis, and to assure the continued
21 high quality of these services.

22 Sec. 2. Section 225C.1, Code 2023, is amended by adding the
23 following new subsection:

24 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. *a.* The general assembly finds that
25 to reduce the stigma associated with brain health disease and
26 brain illness and to assist Iowans in receiving brain health
27 diagnosis and treatment, the terms "*brain health*" or "*brain*
28 *illness*" may be used synonymous with the terms "*mental health*",
29 "*mental illness*", and "*behavioral health*" to allow for more
30 preventative and earlier treatments of those Iowans with brain
31 health issues.

32 *b.* The recognition of the term "*brain health*" does not
33 replace or alter the terms "*behavioral health*", "*mental health*",
34 or "*mental illness*" as those terms relate to medical billing,
35 insurance regulation, or state professional licensure.

1 Sec. 3. Section 225C.2, Code 2023, is amended by adding the
2 following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. *"Brain health"* means all aspects of
4 the brain impacted by biological, neurological, and physical
5 characteristics of the brain affecting mood and behavior.

6 Sec. 4. Section 135.11, Code 2023, is amended by adding the
7 following new subsection:

8 NEW SUBSECTION. 29. Recognize the term "*brain health*",
9 as defined in section 225C.1, as a term that mental health
10 providers may use in matters related to mental health, mental
11 illness, and behavioral health. The recognition of "*brain*
12 *health*" shall not replace or alter the terms "*mental health*",
13 "*mental illness*", or "*behavioral health*" as those terms relate
14 to medical billing, insurance regulation, or state professional
15 licensure.

16 EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

19 This bill relates to the term "brain health".

20 The bill includes brain illnesses in the legislative
21 findings relating to services to persons with mental illness,
22 an intellectual disability, developmental disabilities, or
23 brain injury in Code chapter 225C (mental health and disability
24 services). The bill provides that the general assembly finds
25 that to reduce the stigma associated with brain health disease
26 and brain illness and to assist Iowans in receiving brain
27 health diagnosis and treatment, the terms "brain health" or
28 "brain illness" may be used synonymous with the terms "mental
29 health" and "mental illness" to allow for more preventative and
30 earlier treatments of those Iowans with brain health issues.

31 This recognition of the term "brain health" does not replace
32 the terms "behavioral health", "mental health", or "mental
33 illness" as those terms relate to medical billing, insurance
34 regulation, or state professional licensure.

35 The bill adds to the duties of the department of health and

1 human services the duty to recognize the term "brain health" as
2 a term that mental health providers may use in matters related
3 to mental health, mental illness, and behavioral health. The
4 recognition of "brain health" shall not replace or alter the
5 terms "mental health", "mental illness", or "behavioral health"
6 as those terms relate to medical billing, insurance regulation,
7 or state professional licensure.